THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES BULLETI

1051
2-55

Our President Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chettiar
and State Commissioner Scouts Sri N. D. Sundaravadivelu at Mathurai

APRIL 1955

COMMISSIONERS' WARRANTS — RENEWED

For the year 1955-56

District Commissioners (Scouts)

Warrant No. & Date	Name	Area
1-17- 9-51	Rao Bahadur C. Doraiswamiah	North Arcot Dt.
39-21- 5 53	Dr V. Krishnamoorthy	South Arcot Dt.
14- 6-10-51	Sri C. V. Naidu	North Chingleput Dt.
15- 6 10-51	Sri R. Messiah Doss	South Chingleput Dt.
37- 9- 1-53	Sri T. R. Sundaram Pillai	Coimbatore Dt.
40- 4- 6-53	Dr. K. Giridhara Rao	South Kanara Dt.
45-15- 3-54	Sri C. S. Natesa Mudaliar	North Madras Dt.
42-17- 8-53	Sri H. Ramanathan	South Madras Dt.
20- 6-10-51	Sri M. Kazim Khaleeli	Central Madras Dt.
5-17- 9-51	Sri M. D. Janardhan	East Madras
21- 6 10-51	Sri V. Thiagarajapillai	West Madras Dt.
30-16 10-51	Dr. K. G. Ramabadran	Mathurai Dt.
46- 3-12-54	Sri T. K. Venkiteswaran	North Malabar Dt.
13-19- 9-51	Dr R. Padmanabhan	South Malabar Dt.
32 23- 7-52	Sri N. R. Bojarajulu Naidu	Nilgiris
25- 6-10-51	Sri P. Somasundaram Iyer	Ramanathapuram Dt.
7 17- 9-51	Sri S. V. Lakshmanan	Salem Dt.
26- 6-10-51	Sri J. S. Nesayya	East Tanjore Dt.
27- 6-10-51	Sri A. Y. S. Parisutha Nadar	West Tanjore Dt.
28- 6 10-51	Sri T. S. Desikachari	Tiruchirapalli Dt.
33-25 8-52	Sri T. V. Arumugam	Tirunelvelli Dt.

District Commissioners (Guides)

Warrant No. & Date	Name	Area
25- 9-12-54	Mrs I Roy Chatterjee	Coimbatore Dt.
4- 7-12-54	Mrs D. Kalyani Shetty	South Kanara Dt.
6- 7-12 51	Miss Grace Joseph	North Madras Dt.
26- 5- 8-59	Miss S. Bakkiamuthu	Central Madras Dt
25-28- 6-53	Mrs Ahalya Santhanam	East Madras
7- 7-12-51	Miss L. Vadanayakam	West Madras Dt.
9- 7 12-51	Mrs. M. M Peters	Madras Corporation Dt.
31-14- 2-55	Mrs. S Eddy	Mathurai Dt.
17-12-11-52	Mrs E. P. Chandran	North Malabar Dt.
27- 4-10-54	Miss Sarasawathi Madhavarajah	South Malabar Dt
24- 9 11-53	Miss. I Golding	Nilgiris Dt.
29-19-11-54	Mrs. R. Seethalakshmi	Salem Dt.
22- 2-11-53	Mrs. Indra Nagarajan	Tanjore East & West Dt.
21-17- 9-53	Mrs Lily Charles	Tiruchirapalli Dt.
2 7-12-51	Miss G. Pakenham Walsh	Tirunelvelli Dt.

Madras-5
12th April 1955

V. S. RATNASABHAPATHY,
State Secretary.

THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES BULLETIN

MADRAS STATE

(Approved by the Director of Public Instruction, Madras)

VOL. 5 — APRIL 1955 — NO. 12

Raj Bhavan,
Guindy, Madras-22,
April 4, 1955.

MESSAGE

BY

SHRI SRI PRAKASA

The Governor of Madras

I am happy to know that the Bharat Scouts and Guides have planned camps throughout the State during the summer months of April and May this year. It gives me particular satisfaction to know that they will visit the interior of many districts, and do the very useful work of improving the amenities in the countryside, such as laying of roads, attending to the sanitary and hygienic conditions of the villages, clearing of silt from tanks, etc.

It is now time that boys and girls in our schools and colleges realised the importance and value of manual labour which keeps the body and mind strong and alert, and also makes its own great and necessary contribution to national prosperity and social well being. The many schemes that are on hand and that are designed to usher in genuine Welfare State, need the concentrated devotion and efforts of all men, women and children. The noble endeavours of the Bharat Scouts and Guides in this direction deserve our admiration and gratitude.

I send my very best wishes for the success of the Scouts and Guides in their good work.

YOUTH CAMPS FOR SCOUTS

A High Adventure

THE Youth Camps for Scouts and Guides organised by the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Madras State in Malabar District and in Chingleput District have proved a high adventure to our lads.

The Planning Commission of the Government of India had rightly visualised the scheme of manual work and social work service by the boys and girls in the Five Year Plan. Taking advantage of the suggestion a Camp for 200 Scouts and non-Scouts was organised under the Community Project Scheme, Palghat from 13th October 1953 to 27th October 1953. The work done by the Campers with great enthusiasm was as follows :—

1. Constructing Cutcha Roads to the extent of 4½ miles.
2. Dibbling sesbania seeds (green manure) on 50 acres of paddy fields.
3. Planting 6000 glyricidia seedlings.
4. Cleaning an old village tank.
5. Digging 115 pits for the manufacture of compost
6. Construction of 4 soak-pits for urinal.
7. Filling up of an unused well in the middle of the village street.
8. Opening and conducting 2 Adult-Education centres and initiating about 73 village adults into the scheme.

The villagers themselves came forward without any distinction of caste or status and joined our Scouts in our endeavour to carry out the programme of work given above. An influential Village committee attended to mess, accommodation and other arrangements.

Our State Chief Commissioner, Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu declared the camp open and we had the hearty co-operation of the Block Development Officers and other Officials.

Another Camp was held in Vadavannur from 23-12-1953 to 5-1-1954 under the auspices of the District Bharat Scouts and Guides, S. Malabar in collaboration with the Community Project Department at Palghat. There were 321 Scouts and non-Scouts in the Camp, and their work during the period may be summarisd. as follows :—

1. New roads constructed and old roads repaired—4 miles.
2. Compost pits dug—standard and small sizes (more than half the number filled), ... 244 (118 plus 126)
3. Glyricidia planted ... 3.000
4. Bathing tanks cleaned ... 5
5. Cocoanut seedlings planted ... 200
6. Sanitation drive :—
   Temple premises and approach road cleaned one.
7. Number of adults initiated into the Social Education ... 181
8. Villagers' contribution (in terms of cash) :

Voluntary gift of land for construction of new roads ...	Rs. 1,980
Manual labour supplied ...	Rs. 951
	Rs. 2,931

We had also here the co-operation of students and young men of the village as well as the representatives of the village labour in our work. This Camp was visited by His Excellency Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras. He exhorted all boys and girls to join the Scout Movement in large numbers and praised the good work of the Scouts at these Camps.

Two similar camps were taken up in Chingleput District one at Tirukalikundram by 300 Scouts where the boys made a road to a distance of three miles in co-operation with the Block Development Officers, a road leading to the Tirukkalikundram-Sadras highway, to the joy of the villagers, from 4th May to 24th May 1954. This camp which was inaugurated by Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Education on 4th May 1954, went on for 21 days. Summer in this part of the country is relentless and the students were unused to manual labour ; yet with the zeal and will to work known only to Scouts, as their only protection and shade against the scorching sun's oppressive heat, this enthusiastic young band of Scout workers were able to complete, the task assigned to them, 3 miles of earth road within 3 weeks' time. The newly constructed road goes through paddy fields, vegetable gardens, rock-imbedded lands and among hillocks. Fifteen feet wide and with 2 feet by 1 foot drainage on either side. This is an achievement of which our Association can take a legitimate pride.

Besides this work the Scouts had a regular programme of Camp from morning six to ten at night every day which included Recreational activities, Games and Camp-fires.

The closing function was attended by Sri M A. Manickavelu Naicker and speaking on the occasion, he said "The reward for your work does not lie in the amount of money spent by the Government for the Camp nor the certificate issued to you after the closing of the camp. But it does in the spontaneous joy that you derive when you visit this scene of your boyhood toil, on a later day and see your fellow citizens using this road. You derive satisfaction and inspiration when you think "This is the road that I have constructed with my own hands and at the sweat of my brow". He also said the spirit with which you have done the work will create a deep impression in the minds of the villagers that manual labour is not alien to educated towns-men.

Another Camp was held by another set of 300 Scouts and Guides at Senji village 3 miles from Kadambathur in Trivellore Taluk in the matter of renovating a neglected irrigation tank in the village on May 14th 1954. Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Community Projects and National Extension Services inaugurated this camp. He praised the efforts of the Scouts and said it will serve as an inspiration to the villagers in the matter of self-help.

At the conclusion of the work Mr. C. Subramanyam, Minister for Finance and Education, an eye witness to this fine endeavour said that this service by our Scouts was not a small one, it was a very very big one, they were building a new India,

Encouraged by the success of these Camps we have planned for a series of Rural service camps throughout the State this year at which 3110 Scouts and Guides will render service.

I am inclined to state, judging from the experience gained that the Association of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Madras State has in a humble measure, given a helping hand to build a New Country under the Five Year Plan. This opportunity has enabled us to impart good training in Community Service for boys and girls.

To come into touch with the village people and identify themselves with them and their life.

To learn the needs and requirements of the villagers and how to co-operate with the villagers in providing them.

And to erase the distinction that exists between the villager and the town-bred, educated, uneducated, etc.

Our boys learnt to appreciate the dignity of labour and the joy that comes out of self-effort. In our opinion this is practical education and real training in true citizenship.

In this year's programme of Rural Service Camps 3110 Scouts will participate. We are thankful to the Government of Madras for the opportunity.

V. S. RATNASABHAPATHY,
State Secretary.

PYRAMIDS

This is a very useful group activity for demonstration purposes. The Pyramids prove very impressive and spectacular especially when it is formed properly and smartly. The number of boys that take part also will add to this, the greater the number the better the demonstration. What is the intrinsic character training value in this activity? It may not be seen clearly from outside but if one regularly and seriously trains up boys for this, the trainer will understand the spirit of co-operation and working together that is encouraged in this activity.

The whole lot of boys should move and work as one body and this can only be possible if everyone shares the responsibility and gives his whole-hearted co-operation. The author of this note remembers how in his College days, he was one of the big Team that gave a demonstration in the Gokhale Hall, Madras and himself stood at the top of the Pyramid which very nearly touched the arch on the Platform It must be about 15 feet or so. A thrilling experience, at the time. It is good training for Community living, self-discipline and service. Try it and see for yourself.

COMING EVENTS

4th Divisional Commissioners and Secretaries Conference at Stanley Park, Coonoor

23rd and 24th May 1955.

The Conference is open only to Commissioners of all Ranks (Scout and Guide) Presidents and Secretaries of all Local and District Associations in the Western Division.

The two Assistant State Commissioners Messrs. V. C. Subbiah Gounder and C. S. V. Ramani Kariyakar will preside over the sessions. We expect the State Chief Commissioner and the State Commissioners and other State officers to take part in the Conference.

Free Boarding and Lodging will be provided on 23rd and 24th May 1955.

Please let us know before the 30th April 1955, how many delegates are attending the conference from your District.

All communications may kindly be addressed to Sri V. P. Ramaswami, District Secretary, the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Coonoor R. S.

PROGRAMME

23-5-1955 (Monday)	11-30 A. M.	Arrival
	12-30 P. M.	Meals
	1-30 P. M.	Conference
	4-00 P. M.	Tea
	8-00 P. M.	Night Meals
24-5-1955 (Tuesday)	8-30 A. M.	Chota
	9-30 A. M.	Conference Continues.
	12-30 P. M.	Meals
	1-30 P, M.	Closing session

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

N. R. BOJARAJULU NAIDU
District Commissioner (Scouts)
Coonoor.

SUMMER TRAINING COURSES

Serial No.	Nature of the Course.	Place and District where the course to be conducted.	Dates of the Course.	Apply to.
1.	Rural Rover Leaders ...	Temple Thope at Avanasi, Coimbatore Dt.	10th April to 21st April 1955.	Block Development Officer, Tiruppur.
2.	Cubmasters ...	Temple Thope at Avanasi, Coimbatore Dt	21st April to 27th April 1955	Do.
3.	Scoutmasters ...	Board High School, Attur, Salem Dt.	20th April to 1st May 1955.	Sri K. Varadharajan, Secretary, Bharat Scouts and Guides, 83, Second Agraharam, Salem.
4.	Flock leaders ...	Ammachatram near Kumbakonam.	1st May to 7th May 1955.	Sri V. Pichumani, Secretary, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Native High School, Kumbakonam.
5.	Cubmasters ...	Little Flower High School, Salem.	25th May to 31st May 1955.	Sri K. Varadharajan, Secretary, Bharat Scouts and Guides, 83, Second Agraharam, Salem.
6.	Flock leaders ...	St. Mary's Girls High School, Arisipalayam, Salem ...	25th May to 31st May 1955.	Do.
7.	Flock leaders ...	Mathurai.	May 1955.	Sri K. L. N. Krishnan, Secretary, Bharat Scouts and Guides, 41, North Avani Street, Mathurai.

SUMMER RURAL SERVICE CAMPS — PROGRAMME OF WORK

S. No.	Area		Centre of work	Nature of work	Number of Campers	District Commissioners	Organising Commissioner in-charge
	Western Division: Sri V. C. Subbiah Gownder, A. S. C.						
1.	Coimbatore	...	Gobichettipalayam at Bhavanisagar, Kasipalayam, Kugalur.	Construction of a School Building and Road making.	350	Sri T. R. Sundaram Pillai.	Sri J. I. Muthiah.
2.	Salem	...	Attur.	Road making.	300	Sri S. V Lakshmanan.	Do.
	Southern Division: Sri K. S. Seshadry, A. S. C.						
3.	Mathurai	...	Villur and Maravapatti.	Road making.	300	Dr. K. G. Ramabadran.	Sri M. Rajagopalan
4.	Ramanathapuram	...	Vembattur and Kalloorani.	Improving the Village Tank.	60	Mr P. Somasundaram.	Do.
5.	South Arcot	...	Thiruvamur-Panruti.	Road making.	100	Dr. V. Krishnamurthi.	Do.
	Central Division: Sri T. R. Kothandaram Mudaliar, A. S. C.,						
6.	North Arcot	...	Thiruvannamalai and Polur.	Road making.	400	Rao Bahadur C. Doraiswamiah.	Sri M. Ram Mohan.
7.	Chingleput South	...	Tirukalikundram and Menamai.	Road making.	400	Sri R. Messiah Doss.	Do.
8.	Chingleput North	...	Tirur (Tiruvellore).	Renovation of Houses.	200	Sri C. V. Naidu.	Do.
9.	Madras City	...	Vengalattur-Pisattore	Road making.	375	Sri C. S. Natesa Mudaliar	Do.
10.	Madras City	...	Kakkavakkam.	Road making.	125	Sri C.S. Natesa Mudaliar	Do.
11.	Madras City	...	Pakkam (Tiruvellore).	Renovation of Houses.	150	Sri V. Thiagaraja Pillai	Do.
12.	Madras City	...	Kadamb ttur	Renovation of Houses and Open Air Theatres.	350	Sri H. Ramanathan, Sri M. D. Janardhan, Sri M. Noorudeen.	Do.

State Headquarters
Wenlock Park, Madras

V. S. RATNASABHAPATHY, *State Secretary.*

Office of the National Organising Commissioner
Bharat Scouts and Guides

Cir No. A/20/55-56/105 *Dated Allahabad, the 6th April 1955.*

To

The State Commissioners for Training (Scouts Guides) Bharat Scouts and Guides, India.

Subject:—Intensive training Course for six weeks leading up to the finish of the Himalaya Wood Badge Syllabus at Seetalakhet, Almora District from the 20th May to 30th June 1955 inclusive.

ACCEDING to the request of the Uttar Pradesh Bharat Scouts and Guides I have undertaken to direct an intensive training course terminating in the achievements of the Himalaya Wood Badge requirements. This camp will last six weeks from the 20th May to the 30th June 1955 inclusive. Its venue at Seetalakhet near Almora. Seetalakhet is situated at a height of 6,200 feet in the heart of a pine forest. It commands a magnificient view of the snow capped range Nanda Devi about 500 miles in stretch. Unlike other hill Stations it has a perinnial stream running merrily (within very easy reach) at the foot of the camp. In short it is an ideal place for summer camps.

2. The trainees will cover an appreciable range of subjects especially the practical part of the training. The detailed programme will proclaim that special attention will be focussed on topics which are catching the imagination of the present day youth and are receiving due encouragement both from the Central and State Governments. Under this theme there come patriotism and ceremonials. physical fitness, handicrafts and cultural items such as folk songs, folk dances, simple music etc.

3. The camp will be open to both Scouters and Guiders. They will live on the same premises, though in separate buildings enjoying privacy which is their due. There will be joint sessions in subjects of interest common to both. Separate seminars will be held for training peculiar to Scouters or Guiders.

4. Students of a local Junior High School run by the U. P. Bharat Scouts and Guides will be available as practising Scout units. Each pupil Scouter or Guider will be given one or two boys or girls in their early teens for psychological study and determinations of angularities, if any, and rounding them off by Scout methods. On the conclusion of the camp the personal records of children under observation and correctitude will be collected and their values assessed.

5. Efforts will be made to give Indian guise to all subjects as far as possible and also to bring about re-orientation where it fits in.

6. Endeavours are also afoot to assemble trainers seasoned in Scout and Guide crafts with a view to pooling their experience together and standardise training.

7. May I request that you will be good enough to broadcast this news in your State and send as many candidates as are ready to take advantage of the camp? The presence of experienced and seasoned Scouters and Guiders will also be welcome in the camp and I trust you will kindly persuade as many of them as possible to grace the camp and contribute towards its success.

Yours sincerely.

S. R. BAJPAI

National Organising Commissioner.

The Bharat Scouts & Guides

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

HIMALAYA ROVER WOOD BADGE—PART I
1955

STUDY I

1. What Pioneering Projects has your Crew successfully built during the last 2 years. What pioneering material do you possess and what can you obtain on rent or loan ? Give a complete list.

2. How does life in the crew help your Rover Scouts to develop the spiritual side of their lives ?

3. How do you explain "Training Ideals" to a Rover aspirant and how do you encourage him to practise them in his daily life ?

4. Give an outline programme of your Crew :—

(a) For the last six months.

(b) For the next six months.

5. What is the uniform of your Crew ? Give a complete list mentioning the cloth, the colour and the cost. Are your Rovers proud to wear it ?

STUDY II

6. Does Rovering appeal to the youth as much as Scouting appeals to boys ? What do you do to make it attractive ? Discuss giving reasons.

7. What steps will you take to encourage your Rover Scouts to be of effective service to the Community ? Give an outline of a talk which you will give to your Rover Scouts to get them interested in working out some Community Projects.

8. "Rovering to Success" is a better title of the book than "Scouting for Rovers" Justify.

9. How would you deal with the following :—

(a) A man of 40, who has never been a Scout, wants to join your Crew.

(b) A crew is showing greater keenness for organising socials and theatricals than for Scout Craft and Wood Craft.

10. What is the difference between "Investiture Ceremony" and "Presentation Ceremony" ? What formalities has a Rover Aspirant to go through before he is invested as a Rover Scout ?

STUDY III

11. How is Rover Training helpful to Indian youth to realise and carry out the obligations as a citizen of a free country ?

12. "Rover Scouting covers the period during which the youngman is finding himself". What is your interpretation of "finding himself" ? How long are you going to allow for the "finding" process to achieve results ? Give your reasons.

13. "Service" is the Rover Motto. How do you try :—

(a) To inculcate the will to serve ?

(b) To give training to render service effective ?

(c) To deal with those who regard it as more blessed to receive than to give ?

14. A Rover Den is essential for the successful running of a Crew. Does your Crew possess one ? If not, what are you doing to have one ? How have you decorated it or will you decorate to provide necessary atmosphere.

15. Scouting is a world wide brotherhood. What do you do to ensure that yonr Rover Scouts are fully conscious of this ?

SOUTH ARCOT

The Vriddhagiri Scout Troop of the Board High School, Vriddhachalam, did Social Service during the Masimaham festival in the local Sri Vriddhagiriswar temple.

130 stranded children were restored to their parents. Sri S. Devanathan, B.A.B.T., Scoutmaster of the School and Sri V. P. Singaravelu Gurukkal, a Scouter, participated and guided the Scouts.

SCOUTING

BY the 'Scouting' is meant the attributes of backwoodsmen, exploreres and frontiersmen.

To encourage boys and girls of Britain Baden Powell has given accounts of the British adventurers. (page 16 Scouting for Boys. British edition 1918) In the Handbook of the Boy scouts of America mention has been made of the efforts of the arly poineers for American Independence. (Page 22,23) In the book Scouting for Boys in India, Baden Powell has also made a mention of some Indian Heroes who were early poineers, but it is necessary to take up the idea and make scouting appealing to public, parents, boys and girls. It has been suggested by Babu Premchand Lal in his book 'Reconstruction and education in rural India' on page 111 as follows:—'Education in India has to be built upon Indian Thought, Indian history, Indian tradition and Indian Literature; and, for the rural people, upon the rural environment. At the same time it should make full use of science and the scientific method in teaching which the west has to offer us!

Lord Baden Powell in the report after his tour in India in 1921 suggested as follows:—'I have been greatly pleased to see new and ingenious games and activities introduced into the course of training, such as appeal to the national spirit of the boys and introduced into the movement some novel and useful exercise.

'The Indian boys are also evidently adepts, where encouraged, in arts and crafts and making things. My only regret here was that in some cases they were imitating articles made in Europe when it would have been far more profitable and interesting were they to develop some of their own arts and maintain the beauties of Indian design and Manufacture.'

'I suggest for instance that troop funds might be earned by making Indian curios of good type which could secure a paying market while encouraging the artistic designing power of the boys themselves.'

Mr. J. S. Wilson in the report of his tours to India in 1933-34 on page 89 writes as follows:—'As I have said more than once during the course of my tour Lord Baden Powell cannot nationalise Indian Scouting, although he has done more than any one else to indicate the way in which it can be done; I cannot Nationalise Indian Scouting. Indian Scouting can be Nationalised by Indian scouts and Indian Scouters.'

Lord Baden-Powell in the report after his tour to India in 1937 writes as follows:—'The value of discipline has recently been adverted to by Sarvepalli Radhakrishan when he said that democracy to be successful requires a disciplined Nation, and if India is to work democracy efficiently she must be disciplined.'

'Such attributes can be inculcated in the individual while the pupil is yet young, but they cannot be taught to a class. Although character is the most important quality for success in life, it is not, nor it be, a definite subject for instruction in the ordinary school curiculum. But in the Scout training it is our main aim. Its revolution has to be induced from the inner self of the individual boy, and for this reason the scout unit, viz, the troop, is limited to thirty-two boys, since no scoutmaster can adequately study and develop more than that number of individual characters..

'For success in applying Scouting to such training it is essential that the Scout Master himself employs ingenuity and imagination in devising schemes and adventures which will, in the first place appeal to the boys' enthusiasm and will thus develop the required qualities in the course of practice. This is where the interests and joy of the scoutmaster work comes in, but he has to remember also that it is his own personal example in his life that mainly impresses and reflects itself on the boy.'

Regarding standard of Scouting Lord Baden-Powell in the same reprint observes as follows:—'The standard of scouting in India is not yet upto that of the other countries, though there was plenty of promise in the movement, and the national possibilities that lie before it demand and justify a special and immediate effort to complete its working efficiency.

—BY AN IDLE SCOUTER

PACHMARHI

REPRODUCTION of a Broadcast by Mr. Justice V. Vivian Bose, Chief Commissioner, Scouts, over the All India Radio, New Delhi, by kind courtesy of the All India Radio.

Pachmarhi is not a hill station in the true sense of the term because it is not high enough but it is as nice a place as I know for a quiet restful holiday of a kind you cannot get elsewhere. Deeds are more eloquent than words. With all the Himalayas and even Kashmir within easier reach, except for an occasional change elsewhere, I have been back and back to Pach, as it is affectionately called for 35 years, and though I have sampled most of the hill stations of India I still prefer it for a holiday. I would not recommed it to the tripper type of tourist who is anxious to see as much of India as he can within a limited time, but for those who can afford ten days and more and want a quiet restful and unsophisticated holiday, full of interest and simple enjoyment, Pach is hard to beat.

It is situated in the State of Madhya Pradesh, almost in the centre of India about 165 miles by road from Nagpur. The railhead at Pipariya is on the main East-West line, and can be reached almost as easily from the North and South via Itarsi which is only two stations distant. There are also through trains from Allahabad. From Pipariya there is a drive of 32 miles by bus or car over a good road through lovely jungle with 16 miles of ghat. When you reach the top you are on a plateau 3,500 feet high with 25 miles of good motorable roads to the various points of interest; and in any case they afford delightful drives through beautiful park-like country with ever-green trees. On the fringes of the plateau rise the three peaks of Chauragarh, Mahadeo and Dhupgarh, ranging in height from 4,300 to 4,400 feet. Dhupgarh is the highest point in Central India and has a well-built Rest House for visitors. The other two are well-known places of pilgrimage.

The climate is dry, even in the rains, in the sense that there is an absence of humidity. The hottest month is May when the temperature rises to 100 or 101 for a few days but only for 2 or 3 hours in the middle of the day. After that it cools down. But the average, even in May, is 98 in the day and 78 at night. In the winter months, which are by far the nicest, the temperatures are 65 and 35. The rainfall is 77 inches in the year nearly all of which falls in July, August and September with a few showers in June. As soon as the first showers fall the place cools down at once and is then delightfully pleasant.

One of the delights of the place, especially to a traveller from the parched plains in the hot weather is its evergreen trees; sal, mahua, and aula, harra, mango and silver oak, and the lovely park-like scenery all round the plateau.

On all sides except one the plateau is cut into steep gorges and deep ravines at the bottom of which flow streams of pure crystal-clear water which is safe to drink without boiling. These gorges make the place unique. One can spend months, and even years, as I have, exploring and exploring and never get to the end of them. When I was younger, my delight in the hot weather holidays, was to go down these gorges at daybreak, carrying a picnic lunch and tea, and stay down all day till the sun was about to set, and while there bathe and swim and wade and explore. The temperature there never rises above 80, and in some places is as low as 60. The cliffs rise high and sheer on each side, sometimes 600 feet and more, with only a narrow cleft between. In places, the water is shallow, only ankle deep in other spots it is so deep that the bottom disappears from sight and one feels as if no sounding is possible. The longest of these swims is quarter of a mile. In one place the stream disappears into a tunnel several hundred feet in length and pitch dark and sometimes so narrow that one can only squeeze through side-ways swimming all the while till you reach an enormous pot hole impossible to climb. This is known as White Fish Gully. It was, and still is, a mark of distinction to have been through it. In the old days and by that I mean in the twenties and the thirties, those who had braved its seeming terrors were entitled to wear a white fish on their bathing costumes. The custom has died out, probably for want of room on the modern abbreviated costumes we wear, both men and women.

Pachmarhi was discovered in its modern sense by Capt. Forsyth of the Bengal Lancers who later joined the C. P. Forest Service. But it was known to the Korkus and Gonds long before, so long before, so long that its history stretches back into mythology. It used to be on the old caravan route which took wheat from the Narbahda valley to the cotton areas in the Deccan and brought back other things on the return journey.

During the British regime Pachmarhi was the summer capital of the Central Provinces and it is still the seat of the Madhya Pradesh Government during the hot weather months. It has a club with one of the nicest open air swimming pools I know. The pool is situated in a forest glade of ever-green sal and is made by damming up a pellucid mountain stream. There is golf and tennis and bridge for those who cannot do without, also a splendid military band. The place is the headquarters of the Army School of Music, so there is no lack of musicians. The Club has a good dancing floor and in the old days dances were frequent. Now there are none, but they could be revived. Good safe tap water is laid on and electricity is also available. There are beautiful walks and drives and lovely picnic spots, many by the side of pure running water.

But its charm does not end there. There is plenty of excellent rock climbing, some easy enough for beginners to learn on—I have frequently taken parties of Scouts and even ladies up many of them—others so difficult that even two members of a former British Everest Expedition were baffled in their first attempts and succeded only on their third try.

One year I took my wife up a place called Marten's Lead. One climbs 200 or 300 feet from Waters Meet and reaches a flat slab of rock 8 feet by 6. Then one has to straddle a chasm with a clear 200 feet drop and pull oneself up by a tree on the other side. We reached the small platform just as the sun was setting. I got across and then my wife's nerve failed and there she sat refusing to move. Turning back would have been foolhardy as darkness would have overtaken us. I had to spend 20 minutes coaxing and coaxing before she finally made the effort. Then all was well.

There is another interesting climb called the Crevasse and a hair-raising one upstream from Duchess Falls to Irene Pool, the latter named after my wife who discovered it. At one place one has to swing oneself across by an overhanging branch with a 60 foot drop into a deep dark looking pool underneath. But even my son did it at the age of 9 and didn't whimper though he was a little frightened. I was very proud of him that day.

A wide field of research awaits the anthropologist, the ethnologist, the geologist, the botanist, the archaeologist and the bird lover. So far most of this work has been done by enthusiastic and well informed amateurs. The people there are mostly Korkus and Gonds. Some anthropologists claim that the Korku is kin in blood to some of the aboriginal tribes of Eastern Australia. At Mahadeo there is a deep cave out of which a stream flows. In it is a shrine which was originally an aboriginal Gond or Korku shrine in possession of the Korku Jagirdar of Pachmarhi, but now it is much more Hindu in character.

The place derives its name from five caves hewn out of a large rock which rises out of the plateau. The origin of these caves is a matter of controversy. According to Brahmanical tradition the Pandava brothers stopped there, but archeoologists think they are Buddhist. Gordon's theory is that this is one of the links in the Buddhist chain which stretches from Sanchi Top to Ellora and Ajanta. Forsyth finds confirmation for this in the legend which centres round Handikho. Handikho is an enormous split in the plateau, about two or three hundred yards across and 800 to 900 feet sheer down on all three sides. Looking down, trees which are 70 to 80 feet high look barely 6 or 7. The legend is that there was once a large lake on the plateau which was the home of a monstrous serpent who used to harass the pilgrims on their way to the shrine at Mahadeo. This so annoyed the god that he struck a huge cleft in the hills with one blow of his trident so that the lake dried up and the serpent was imprisoned there. To this day pilgrims ascend the mighty peak of Chauragarh and leave a trident on the top. Some of these pilgrims measure their length the entire way for nearly 206 miles. But Forsyth sees in the legend a clear allusion to the former settlements of the Buddhists on the Pachmarhi hills because according to him, Buddhists are referred to as snakes in Brahmanical writings.

Curious confirmation of the lake legend has recently been found by a botanist. He was amazed to find a peculiar kind of grass at the bottom of the Pachmarhi khuds which is only to be found along the margins of large lakes. The geologists' theory is that the place was once all under water and that a volcanic upheaval thrust the hills up out of the water and thus made the waters recede to the bottom of the present ravines. The rock is clearly volcanic and rows of pebbles at various layers indicate that the place was once under water.

A rival theory is that the gorges were cut out by the action of water much as the Grand Canyon in Colorado. All this opens up a fascinating field of research for many different kinds of experts.

There is another kind of cave to be found all round the plateau—a sort of rock shelter with three distinct types of menochrome paintings on the walls, pink, cream and yellow ochre. Experts claim that the colour and style of the painting indicates the period, the pink and the cream being the oldest. Estimates of their age vary. Those who can speak with some knowledge place them between the 5th and 10th centuries A.D. The paintings are mostly hunting and love scenes and some dancing.

It is interesting to see how different persons react to these paintings. The antiqnarian and historian look for traces of their age, also the archaeologist. The geologist, finding traces of iron in the rocks around, concludes their arrows must be iron-tipped. Out comes his magnifying glass and a long and careful scrutiny of the arrow-heads. The musician sees a woman dancing. "Dancing", he says, "Ah! there can't be dancing without music. I wonder what kind of instrument they used?" And, sure enough, he finds, or thinks he does, a kind of crude and ancient harp. An irreverent scoffer like myself, without knowledge and without the will to learn, laughing at the serious, finds instead a caricature of a European lady sitting on a three legged stool, singing at the top of her voice and taking a top note with her mouth wide open and her head thrown back; just such a scene as many a servant has seen in after-dinner drawing rooms all round India when I was a boy. But the way of the heretic is hard. True believers burn him at the stake. Many a time have I tugged heavy cameras and tripods up and down these hillsides, scrambling over rocks, to prove my point. But even then I am not believed and my negatives are whipped away (and incidentally never returned) to prove their stuffy old theories. But whichever view you take, if you are a photographer, there is your chance for some first rate documentaries and a stimulating source of after-dinner wrangling. About 30 of these caves have been discovered on the plateau and some 65 in the district. But their possibilities are nowhere near exhausted.

Nor are the paintings all. Major Gordon discovered some beautiful specimens of flint arrowheads and tools by digging in the floor of some of them That encouraged Dr Hunter to do the same and he was greatly excited when he came across a female skeleton under some layers of earth. He took it to the British Museum for examination, being convinced he had a prehistoric find. With my usual irreverence I said it was much more likely to be the remains of some angry dhobi's murdered wife. I have never heard the result of the investigation so the truth probably lies somewhere between our views Anyway I would like to have seen the faces of the Customs officials when they opened up his trunk. But haven't I said enough to show what a delightful and fascinating place it is? Climb up to the top of these peaks on a winter morning, drink in the wonderful view and breathe the invigorating air; climb down the deep khuds on the hottest day and turn into a water-baby Climb, picnic, ramble, swim, photograph, explore or just plain laze Go once, and like me, you will go again and again, and if you don't believe me, give it a try. But I speak to the elite; to those of all ages who like to live and keep their bodies and minds fresh and young invigorated, even if you are an invalid. I do not recommend it to sophisticated fobs whose horizon is limited by cinemas and restaurants and crowded streets with their daily fashion parades. And now, I, a lifelong teatotaller, will drink a health to Pachmarhi—as soon as it ceases to be dry.

VIVIAN BOSE

Trainings at Foxlease Oct./Nov. 1954.

BY

ANNE BASIL

Headquarters Commissioner for Training (Guides)—West Bengal

DURING my 5 week-ends at Foxlease, about 50 trainees attended each time, though there were fewer at the last week-end (35)

The trainees were divided into 6 patrols and named after birds in the vicinity—chiffchaff, rook, chaffinch, woodpecker, nuthatch and greenfinch. I was in chaffinch patrol The patrol duties consisted of Mess, House, Vegetable, Washing-up, Orderly and Tea.

The trainees were predominantly English from various parts of England There were also one or two from overseas at each week-end-India (myself) Nigeria (English) Canada, Cyprus (English) Uganda (African) Switzerland, Germany, South Africa (English) and Australia.

The Trainers were all British including one from Kenya and another from Hong Kong, both assistant trainers.

1st week-end. Oct. 15/17—1954

This was an Oxfordshire week-end. The trainees were accompanied by their County Commissioner, The Honourable Lady Rose.

Brownie and guide guider trainings were given. I attended most of the Brownie sessions by Mrs Rowe, an experienced trainer who had done guiding in India, lived in Mysore for 40 years It was a delightful, instructive week-end and I made many friends At "Guide's Own" Lady Rose said how pleased they were all to have India with them and everyone applauded. She gave me the Oxfordshire county badge and I presented her with a carved, ivory book mark (Indian) Subsequently I was given the English friendship badge and stayed in the homes of 2 of my Oxford co-trainees as a result of this week-end. Indeed, every week-end I made some very interesting friendships and now correspond with them.

I should like to mention, in passing, both during trainings and at "Our Ark" where I spent 10 happy days and met guides from various countries, I received friendship badges but alas! I could not reciprocate as we have no Indian friendship badge yet—I gave away one or two tigers, emblem of Bengal One feels rather awkward not to be able to exchange friendship badges and I am sure our guides are all eagerly awaiting our friendship badges.

2nd week-end—22—26 Oct 1954

This was also a Brownie Guide Guider week-end. I divided my time more or less equally between the two trainings The Trainers were Welsh—Miss Thomas (Brownie) Miss Tainsh (guide) Their sessions were informal and in some ways the most enjoyable The joint session was a skit on 'How Brownie and guide guiders sometimes behave" The trainers staged a play committing all the errors possible *It was a plea for closer co-operation between Brownie and guide guiders.* It went down very well

It was at this week-end that I was initiated into the *Grid system of mapping* and map-reading. I also learned the *Holgar Nielson System of life-saving by artifical respiration which since October 1953 has replaced Shaefer for the 1st class test.* It was also instructive to learn that *no guide can pass her 1st class mapping test unless she has previously gone out into unknown territory with the aid of a map and been able to find her way back.* Mapping is taught in a practical way (actual mapping out of doors). Without correctly mapping a given area, no guide can pass her 1st class test in England.

3rd week-end—6—9 Nov. 1954

This was an all Brownie week-end divided into Elementary, Advanced and Joint sessions. I attended the latter two by Miss Chilton-Thomas, an excellent trainer who, among other things, taught some interesting handwork for Brownies spinning top, a parasol, a ticking watch, greeting cards etc.

I also learned about *Pack Leaders* who are a link between Packs and Companies, and belong to

companies whilst helping at pack meetings. *The qualification for a Pack Leader is a first class Brownie Badge with a second class guide Badge.* I am not aware if we have Pack Leaders in India, if not, I strongly recommend them. I watched them in action during my visit to Packs in Hampshire, London and Oxfordshire.

4th week-end—19—23 Nov. 1954

This was an all guide week-end divided into Elementary, Refresher and Joint Sessions of which I attended the latter two by Mrs Burgess, a good trainer who was anxious to help us as fast as possible. I enjoyed a chat with Mrs. Frost, wife of the British Council in Kenya, and our then asst Trainer. She seemed genuinely interested in Indians. The joint sessions with Miss Cozens were generally of an uplift nature and most inspiring as well as thought-provoking. Her weekly International sessions were very good indeed.

5th week-end —26—30 Nov. 1954

This was a Campcraft and camp training week-end. I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions which were eminently practical and contained many surprise activities and adventures. A number of new gadgets were taught and some new knots Miss Brindley who has travelled abroad, specially in the Phillipines, introduced ideas she hod come across overseas and these made the sessions particularly interesting *In England, Camping is regarded as the birthright of every guide and a captain's ambition is to ensure that all her guides have at least one camping experience in their guiding life.* There are many camp sites—some permanent. *Camping is looked upon as an integral part of guide training and a P.L's camp permit is the peak of her career.*

Camp fires were most enjoyable. Of special interest were the Malayan handrill (which I never mastered !) a dance " My mother and my father to the church did go ". " Yanto Lleyellen " and " The Mouse and his shadow " both ideal stories for Brownies, a welsh lullabye " All I rock, I rock boysie, boysie won't sleep ", an African drum song and my favourite " Swinging along the open road " One of the graces before meals was " Johnny Appleseed ". Invariably Miss Cozens would sing " The rain, the rain and the appleseed ", instead of the sun, the rain and tho appleseed ! The English are always poking fun at their weather ! However vividly I painted our Monsoon, the English outdid me in their weather grousing !

At these camp fires, overseas trainees were invited to give short talks on guiding in their countries I spoke on 3 occasions and displayed Indian articles—Kashmiri dressing gown, punjabi slippers etc Both trainers and trainees were interested in our Bulbul/guide tests and Himalayan Wood Badge Course The bulbul story (which I adapted from the Bluebird one) was liked and I think we should write a Bulbul story not very different from the Bluebird one as the latter has its counterpart in many countries including Pakistan. ' Hindola ' delighted the Trainers and Brownies at Pack meetings which I attended.

My Impressions.

The trainers were efficient, experienced, earnest and practical "Learn by doing" was their motto. They carried plenty of apparatus. They must have brought a full box each ! It was noticeable that those trainers who had travelled abroad incorporated ideas from their foreign experiences into their trainings which enhanced the interest of their sessions. They also listened to ideas from overseas trainees most readily.

On the whole trainings were entirely on English lines, with English background etc Overseas trainees, therefore, must adapt much of what they learn to suit the particular needs of their guides. An amusing incident look place when a guider from the Isle of Wight and I were selecting first class hike items—written on slips of paper and distributed in the session room She insisted on crockery and cutlery whilst I dispensed with them as unessential. There was a deadlock ! Then I explained that in India we use leaves, sal, banana etc. for plates, paper for cups, and fingers for cultery rather than burden ourselves. She still refers playfully to our intended hike when she writes to me !

The Brownie trainings covered all aspects of Brownie life and were well presented. There were a number of sessions on the Queen, the Union Jack and Semaphore. Here again adaptation is, of course, essential.

Foxlease surroundings were enchanting, Foxlease inside had a homely air and relationships of all were very cordial. The foreigners need not feel foreign ! The fees are reasonable—about £ 2/10 for a long week-end The food is adequate. Indeed it erred on the side of plenty and inspired me to coin the slogan "Fly to Foxlease for frequent feedings" This was no exaggeration. We ate 6 times a day and drank the 7 times Everyone seemed in perfect health. I felt the cold towards the end Central heating was turned on in November.

I strongly recommend my sisters-in-guiding who have not been to Foxlease to do so if they can, for Foxlease has much to offer the overseas trainees. The standard of trainings, indeed of guiding everywhere in England, is very high and I think in India we must insist on maintaining high standards at all times.

During my stay in Foxlease, in several English homes and elsewhere—a factor which impressed me most was the loyalty of the English to their Queen and Country It was natural, in a sense, it was unconscious—but always present Another factor worthy of note was the respect they had for people from other countries who spoke loyally of the country they came from.

A representative of a country is willy nilly a good or bad ambassador no matter in what capacity he or she visits another country. Loyalty is an essential qualification in any representative. Loyalty to the cause she represents is equally important She should have a good command of the English language (especially if she is a delegate and possess the ability to express herself clearly in a mature, calm and tactful manner. A pleasing

personality is a great help. General knowledge of current trends in her own country in politics, education, religion, philosophy, society, national reconstruction projects etc is very necessary.

Every one I met was interested in India—her philosophy, her attitude to Christianity, the caste system, the Hindu code bill, her policy of peaceful co existence the anti-cow slaughter movement, nation building projects, hunger of the masses etc. I was asked by some whether it was true that every-one in India must wear Indian dress and speak Indian (whatever that meant!) Some actually thought that I had picked up English only since my stay in England and complimented me on my excellent accent and impressive vocabulary!

There is a genuine desire in England to know more about India—particularly as India's prestige is very high among the nations of the world.

It is our duty as representatives of India not only to equip ourselves with technical knowledge (in our particular field) and general knowledge about our country, so as to be able to give intelligent and factual replies to those who question us, but to be loyal citizens of our great motherland—which is of Course, a part of our guide training.

ANNE BASIL

EAST MADRAS

The Dhanvantri Scout Group (2nd Triplicane) celebrated their Thirty-Third Annual Day on Sunday, the 21st February 1955 at Wenlock Park Triplicane, Madras. Sri M. Venkataraman M.A.B.L., Manager, T.W.A. Madras presided and distributed the prizes. The Celebrations commenced with Garden Games for Visitors which were followed by Sports for Ladies, Gents and Children. Sri S. Amudachari welcomed the President and the other Guests. The Annual Report of the Group was then presented by the Group Leader Sri S. Venkatraman. An interesting Fancy Dress competition followed. Prizes to the winners in the various Scout craft competitions, Sports and Fancy Dress competition were then distributed.

TIRUNELVELI

The first District Joint Rally to celebrate "Thinking Day" the Birthday of "The Chiefs" was held in the Palatial grounds of Schaffter's School on February 19th, 1955.

650 Scouts and Guides attended. Many distant Companies came in the previous evening, from Tuticorin, Koilpatti, Nazareth and Dohnavur and Megnanapuram The Guides were accommodated in the School buildings, the Scouts in tents round the large compound.

Before 7 A. M. on 19th these were joined by about 200 from Palayamkottai Sri M Rajagopalan, State Organising Commissioner, most kindly came from Madurai, and so clearly and magically issued his orders through the mike, that the Khaki clad Scouts and sister Guides, in new blue uniforms, formed in order at once, round the New Joint Flag, which was unfurled by Dr Kitty Joseph, a keen supporter of the Movement, and saluted by all present.

Displays and Entertainments were given by the Scouts & Guides.

The function ended with the singing of National Anthem.

G. PAKENHAM WALSH
District Commissioner-Guides

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TRAINING CAMP AT FOXLEASE

Staff and Trainees—Standing Fourth from left Smt. Anne Basil

Pyramids by Vasantha Cubs, Adyar.

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